

Guard plane fails to hit drop target at the Gap

The Associated Press

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP • A Maryland Air National Guard aircraft yesterday dropped a 900-pound practice pallet more than two miles off target but caused no damage or injuries, according to the Pennsylvania National Guard.

The C-130J transport plane was practicing tactical operations at the air-to-ground range at Fort Indiantown Gap when it released the pallet containing four 55-gallon drums filled with water. The parachute opened as planned but the cargo fell onto a vacant lot 2½ miles west of the base, the Pennsylvania National Guard said in a statement.

It was the second time in as many months a plane has missed its target at the base. In October, a fighter jet accidentally dropped a 25-pound practice bomb on to a hiking trail about a mile north of its target.

The plane, assigned to the 135th Airlift Group, 175th Wing in Baltimore has been impounded and the air-to-ground range has stopped all C-130J operations.

The incident is under investigation by the Maryland National Guard.